Met Office

Supporting global equity and sustainable development in a changing climate

"We know climate change is one of the greatest threats to development. By 2080, an extra 600 million people could be affected by malnutrition. An extra 400 million people could be exposed to malaria. As many as 200 million people could be forced from their homes because of rising sea levels, heavier floods and more intense droughts, and an extra 1.8 billion people could be living without enough water."

Douglas Alexander
UK Secretary of State for International Development

Research is needed into the impacts of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable people, to enable their communities, governments and the private sector to take action to prepare for these impacts. This needs to fill important gaps in the knowledge base critical to feed into work to protect the most vulnerable against the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The climate modelling tools available from the Met Office Hadley Centre can help. Some of these tools have already been used by scientists and planners in developing countries to inform decisions.

New tools are now available which will enable further partnerships to build capacity and aid decision making. In addition, engagement with users – from government departments to individual farmers – would improve the benefits of the work. It would also inform further development of techniques and applications to improve usability.

Application of these climate change tools can help key, targeted stakeholders in a range of countries recognise a stable climate as essential for their country's prosperity and/or security, or as a pre-condition for achieving global justice. In doing so it can help mobilise the political support needed for ambitious commitments. Partnerships based around these tools can also be used in regional or global programmes to help Least Developed Countries and Small Island States to understand better their vulnerability to climate change, enabling them to articulate what they need from a future post-2012 framework (to be agreed in Copenhagen by UNFCCC[1] in 2009) and to be more influential in negotiations and debate.

[1] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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